



# California Crop Weather

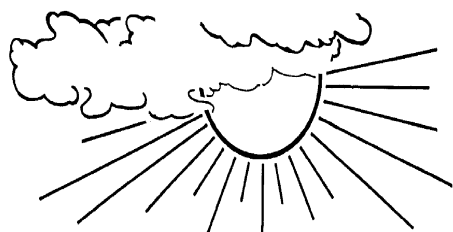
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

California Field Office • P.O. Box 1258 • Sacramento, CA 95812 • (916) 498-5161 • (916) 498-5186 FAX • [www.nass.usda.gov/ca](http://www.nass.usda.gov/ca)

WEEK ENDING: April 6, 2008  
RELEASED: April 7, 2008

FREQUENCY: Weekly  
VOL. 28 NO. 41

## WEATHER



A low pressure trough and its associated cold front were moving east, out of Central California at the start of the week. Temperatures were generally cooler than normal in the wake of this system, but no significant precipitation fell on Monday. During the rest of the week, California's weather was subject to the effects of several weak cold fronts moving across the state fairly quickly. The most significant system consisted of a low pressure system which came ashore Wednesday night, over the south-central California coast near San Luis Obispo County. This front managed to generate some light showers across the length of the state. Behind that system, weak high pressure rebounded, allowing

temperatures to finally climb to normal levels. A final cold front came in on Saturday and cooled temperatures back to below normal levels.

## FIELD CROPS

Winter forage fields continued to be cut for silage in Merced and Tulare counties. The first cutting of **alfalfa** continued and alfalfa weevil spraying was complete. In Fresno County alfalfa growers began their summer-long cycle of cutting, windrowing, raking and baling for the production of alfalfa hay. Early planted **corn** and **cotton** started to germinate and emerge. In Stanislaus County land preparation was being done for upcoming **rice** planting; **oats** were being harvested. **Mustard** seed was in full bloom. **Sugar beet** fields continued to grow well and were being fertilized, irrigated, cultivated and treated to control weeds and diseases. **Safflower** fields were in various stages of growth. High prices for crops and fuel continued to cause consternation about the variety and volume of crops to be planted. High winds in the Imperial Valley the past two weeks caused irrigation schedules on some **wheat** fields to fall behind and hot spots have shown on some of the heavier soils. Early wheat started to fill and flag leaf. In Kern County **potato** crops were growing well.

## FRUIT CROPS

Fruit growers increased irrigation practices due to the continued dry spring. **Grape** growers were tying vines and applying treatments for insects and weeds. Grape vines continued to leaf out. Stone-fruit growers were also treating their vineyards for weeds and insects. **Apple, cherry, pear, pomegranate** and **prune** trees were still blooming in some areas. New orchards were still being planted. Suckering and thinning of early **nectarines** began in Tulare County. Spring **strawberries** and **blueberries** were blooming. New blueberry bush plantings continued. Some citrus growers were treating their groves for fungus, insects and weeds. Foliar nutrients were also being applied. The harvests of **oranges, lemons, mandarins, minneolas** and **pummelos** were ongoing. Valencia harvest was picking up speed. Navel harvest was estimated at 65 percent complete in Tulare County. Field juicing of Navels was underway for fruit not suitable for the fresh market. **Olive** trees were being trimmed.

## NUT CROPS

Bloom continued in **walnut** and **pistachio** groves. More trees were leafing out. Male pistachio trees were putting on pollen sacks in Kern County. Walnuts were sprayed for blight in some areas. **Almonds** were growing well in the warm, dry conditions with nutlets developing rapidly. Little evidence of fungal disease was seen in almond groves. Clean-up from damaging January winds that blew over trees was ongoing.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

Spring harvest of **broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, spinach** and Romaine **lettuce** crops continued. **Asparagus** and **endive** harvest continued. Herbicides were applied to **onion** and **garlic** fields with ongoing cultivation and irrigation. High winds caused some Imperial Valley **melon** vines to be damaged and pollination was impeded due to lack of bee activity. Emerged sweet **corn** was growing well. Transplanting of bell **peppers** and **tomatoes** for the fresh and processing markets was nearly complete. Farmers' market vegetables such as **amaranth, basil, bok choy, beets**, head and napa **cabbage, cilantro, choy sum, daikon, dandelion, dill, fennel**, head and leaf lettuce, **leeks, lemon grass, mint**, mustard and collard **greens, kale, ong choy, parsley, green onions, radishes, rutabagas, tatsoi, tong ho, yam leaf, yams**, and **yu choy** continued to be harvested. Vegetable fields were being weeded, irrigated, fertilized, and treated to control weeds, insects, and mildew. In Tulare County, early planted **zucchini** continued to bloom and set fruit; picking has started on a limited volume. Cooler weather toward the week's end slowed down growth and sizing of **squash** fruits. Planting of **cucumbers** was steady as was staking and first stringing. Planting of both indoor and outdoor varieties of peppers, **gourds, string beans**, bitter melons, assorted **eggplants**, tomatoes and **shinqua** was in full swing. In Kern County, carrots, lettuce, onion and tomato crops were growing well. Peppers have been planted.

## LIVESTOCK

Cattle were in average to good condition as rangelands began to dry due to lack of rain and warm temperatures. Supplemental feeding remained on the decline. Branding of winter calves was near completion. Movement of new crop lambs continued. Sheep were being sheared and continued grazing on retired farmland. Movement of beehives out of almond orchards was almost complete as pollination in remaining stone fruit, nut and pear orchards continued. Leafcutter bees were placed near alfalfa seed fields to aid pollination.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 04/06/08

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 04/06/08	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 04/06/08	January 1 - 04/06/08	Week Ending 04/06/08	July 1 - 04/06/08	July 1 - 04/06/08	July 1 - June 30
NORTH COAST	- - Degrees Fahrenheit - -				- - Number - -		- - Inches - -			
Eureka	44	-6	54	28	0	0	0.27	34.21	34.66	37.53
Ukiah	50	-4	74	32	0	0	0.02	27.49	36.85	37.96
Santa Rosa	--	--	65	36	0	0	0.00	23.97	29.22	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	53	-2	65	41	0	0	0.00	15.88	19.36	19.70
San Jose	56	-2	72	39	2	0	0.01	11.30	14.10	14.42
Salinas AP	52	-3	66	36	0	0	0.10	10.76	12.10	12.44
Monterey FAA	54	0	63	43	0	0	0.08	7.61	14.20	18.72
King City	54	-2	73	32	3	0	0.37	9.70	11.67	11.44
Paso Robles AP	52	-3	73	30	0	0	0.20	8.81	12.81	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	54	-3	76	35	6	0	0.00	23.21	30.89	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	55	-3	75	37	4	0	0.04	14.76	21.57	22.29
Chico AFS	56	0	78	31	21	0	0.00	19.01	24.39	26.32
Marysville	56	-3	75	36	2	0	0.00	15.47	20.71	21.04
Sacramento AP	55	-2	73	37	0	0	0.00	13.67	16.74	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	56	-2	74	34	0	0	0.01	10.07	12.91	13.95
Fresno	58	-1	76	40	23	0	0.00	8.64	10.39	10.60
Bakersfield	58	-2	75	38	42	4	0.00	2.45	6.04	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	50	-4	65	32	3	0	0.21	11.82	13.48	12.36
Santa Barbara	52	-5	63	38	17	0	0.12	15.94	16.80	16.25
Ventura	53	53	64	40	32	0	0.05	13.29	14.80	14.38
Los Angeles	59	-4	70	48	138	88	0.04	13.45	14.54	14.77
Riverside	--	--	--	--	70	1	0.00	6.31	10.12	9.58
San Diego AP	56	-5	65	50	35	29	0.00	7.26	10.19	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	51	0	73	26	0	0	0.00	7.25	4.47	5.37
Lancaster	57	2	75	34	10	0	0.01	5.16	7.57	6.92
Daggett AP	64	1	82	43	132	39	0.00	2.58	3.95	3.93
Thermal AP	71	3	90	53	400	249	0.00	3.58	3.51	3.16
Blythe	67	-1	86	44	328	264	0.00	1.96	3.98	3.60
Imperial	68	0	88	49	349	289	0.00	2.37	2.95	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	37	-4	62	9	0	0	0.00	8.36	9.56	12.01
Mt. Shasta	42	-2	66	17	0	0	0.00	27.80	35.84	37.02
Blue Canyon	42	0	54	28	0	0	0.00	35.61	60.43	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	64	22	0	0	0.00	15.74	34.82	37.05

Normal is defined as average over the 30-year period 1961 through 1990. Dashes (- -) in Average Week Ending and Departure from Normal columns mean less than five days reporting, while in High and Low columns mean no days reporting.

Weekly summary provided by the Western Regional Climate Center with data reported by the National Weather Service. When data are quality controlled by the National Climatic Data Center, the accumulated growing degree day and precipitation values are updated.